

## House Resolution 1227

By: Representatives Jordan of the 77<sup>th</sup>, Abdul-Salaam of the 74<sup>th</sup>, Heckstall of the 62<sup>nd</sup>, Barnes of the 78<sup>th</sup>, Dodson of the 75<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that if there is a shortfall in subsidizing the Lovejoy to Atlanta rail project, the  
2 Department of Transportation and Georgia Regional Transportation Authority shall cover the  
3 costs; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation has been in the process of  
5 negotiating an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railroad for implementation of a Lovejoy  
6 to Atlanta commuter rail project; and

7 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation plans to spend \$106 million of  
8 federal and state transportation dollars on this project; and

9 WHEREAS, absent additional federal or state funds, the responsibility of paying for the rail  
10 line's operational costs falls to the counties and municipalities along rail line's route,  
11 particularly the taxpayers of Clayton County; and

12 WHEREAS, requiring Clayton County and the other counties and municipalities along the  
13 rail line to carry the burden of subsidizing the rail line's operational costs is inherently unfair;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation's cost estimates indicate that  
16 approximately \$4 million in additional annual operating subsidies will be required after the  
17 initial three-year start-up period.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
19 it is the sense of this body that the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Georgia  
20 Regional Transportation Authority should provide funds to cover any shortfall in the  
21 operational costs for the Lovejoy to Atlanta commuter rail project and that the burden for

1 covering said shortfall shall not fall to the taxpayers of Clayton County and the other counties  
2 and municipalities along the proposed Lovejoy-Atlanta commuter rail line.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall deliver  
4 a copy of this resolution to the appropriate officials of the county and municipal governments  
5 along the line of the proposed project and to the commissioner of transportation.